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ANIMAL HUSBANDRY ADVANCES IN THE NORTHWEST AND IN INNER MONGOLIA

Jen-min Jih-pao
Peiping, 8-12 Sep 1953

[Summary: At a conference called by the Sinkiang Province Branch Bureau of the CCP during July 1953, it was decided that conditions were not yet ripe for the promotion of production cooperatives in Sinkiang. The government of Sinkiang is promoting the breeding of better sheep, using artificial insemination.

Mutual-aid and cooperative movements in Inner Mongolia have made considerable progress on a basis of gradual promotion, stressing voluntary participation. This is based on the needs of the shepherds and on long-established habits of getting together for protection. Many mistakes have been made and some unsolved problems remain.

During the first part of August 1953, wool began to come on the market in Tsinghai Province. In Hsia-ho Hsien, Kansu, 20,000 catties of wool were marketed daily.]

SINKIANG WORKERS CONFERENCE FOR THE GRAZING AREAS -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 11 Sep 53

A telegram dated 10 September from Urumchi reported that a conference held during July was called by the Sinkiang Branch Bureau, CCP, to discuss work in the grazing areas. Cadres from the grazing areas and also from those areas which are half grazing and half agricultural attended the conference. In addition there were leadership cadres of the provincial grade responsible for trade, cooperatives, education, hygiene and animal husbandry. Sun Tso-pin, vice-chairman of the CCP Northwest United Front Workers' Committee, and Sai Fu-ting, (Saifuddin), fourth secretary of the Sinkiang Branch Bureau of the CCP, gave important directives to the conference. In the conference the Chairman of the Sinkiang People's Government, Pao Erhan (Burhan) outlined the general report of animal husbandry given at the third (enlarged) meeting of the Commission on Nationalities Affairs, Central People's Government.

The Sinkiang conference recognized that the grazing areas have made definite achievements. Social conditions are now stable so that pastoral people of all tribes have a feeling of confidence. Some herd owners have dug up gold and silver ingots that they had hidden for many years, and have purchased sheep. All kinds of animals have increased from 10 to 15 percent and the livelihood of the shepherds has improved.

Desiring further to improve animal husbandry in Sinkiang Province the conference criticized the many cadres who still stress agriculture but look with disdain on the pastoral industry.

The conference pointed out that Sinkiang Province has one fourth of all the sheep in China, and one sixth of all the horses. The economy of the Sinkiang animal husbandry is therefore an important part of the pastoral economy of the nation, which in turn is essential to the whole national economy.

The conference decided on four elements as concrete duties of the industry: (1) to increase greatly the number and quality of animals, increasing the number within one year from July by 15 percent; (2) to provide additional trading

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facilities, fully supplying the people's needs for production and living; (3) to move forward in strengthening political rights and the work of the united front; and (4) to elevate the political consciousness and level of culture of the people and to promote the work of hygiene.

The conference also decided many concrete questions of policy. It determined that the pastures belonging to individuals, tribes, and temples must be protected. All quarrels about pastures must be decided on the basis of property rights. In areas devoted to grazing, or half grazing and half agriculture, pastures must be protected and reclamation of wasteland must be prohibited or limited. Cadres must continue to implement the policy of mutual profit for herdsman and herd owner. Wages of herdsmen should be adjusted according to the actual conditions of the locality.

With conditions as they are at present in Sinkiang, production cooperatives should not yet be promoted. Mutual-aid teams organized on the initiative of the shepherd should be based on the principle of mutual benefit.

Taxes should continue to be light and there should be improvement in the method of collecting them, so that the shepherds of all tribes may enjoy happy living.

BREEDING OF LAN-HA SHEEP IN SINKIANG -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 8 Sep 53

The People's Government of Sinkiang Province continues to promote the breeding of Lan-ha sheep. The project for this year is to have 150,000 native sheep crossbred with the Lan-ha. As part of the preparatory work, 156 persons trained in artificial insemination methods have already been sent to their assigned stations. The 600 rams used for artificial insemination and the 1,400 rams loaned to people of all tribes for natural breeding purposes have been transported to their various localities. Everywhere men are choosing strong healthy ewes with wool of good colour to take to the breeding stations.

There are in the province 30 artificial insemination stations and 270 technician cadres who are constantly promoting the improvement of breeds.

COOPERATIVE MOVEMENTS IN INNER MONGOLIA -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 12 Sep 53

Mutual-aid and cooperative movements have in recent years made considerable advance in the great pastoral districts of Inner Mongolia. Incomplete statistics show that in the self-governing districts of Inner Mongolia in such pastoral sections as the Hu-na League, Jo-oda League, Chahar League, Silingol League, and Hsing-an League, 2,600 mutual aid teams and animal husbandry production cooperatives have been established. In the Hu-na League, the Hsin-pa-erh-hu-yu-i (West New Barga Banner), 96 percent of all nomadic households joined in the disaster prevention mutual-aid teams.

At present, there are three general types of cooperative organizations. The first type is those that are seasonal in character. Such teams are organized for protection against blizzards, for lambing, shearing, wolf hunting, harvesting of hay, and for moving flocks to better pastures. When the particular project is completed the various members resume their individual shepherding.

A second type is one that combines two or more flocks. This type of mutual aid extends through the whole year.

The third type, of which there are only a few, is a mutual-aid team with definite divisions of labor and high-grade production plans.

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The expansion of mutual-aid and cooperative organizations has been based on the needs of production and on the firmly established cooperation that has been maintained for years. A peculiarity of shepherding a shortage of manpower because wide areas are sparsely populated. Every year there are onslaughts of wind and snow and during all seasons of the year there are losses from wolves and disease epidemics. Poor shepherds lack the Mongolian yurts, carts, horses, and tools of production. Therefore, it has always been essential to organize for mutual help.

Many facts prove the value of this organized cooperation in solving the problems of insufficient manpower, lack of tools for production, and prevention of natural catastrophes. An example is that of the experience of the Hsin-pa-erh-hu-yu-i (West New Barga Banner) of the Hu-na League when in one blizzard of 1949, 12,000 animals were lost. But with active participation in the antilaster cooperative movement, during ten blizzards of the winter of 1951 and the spring of 1952 only 700 animals were lost in the whole banner.

Animal propagation has been increased and mortality of the young decreased. For example, in the pastoral industry of Hu-na League there has been general expansion of use of mutual-aid teams at lambing time. The survival rate of lambs has increased yearly; in 1950 being 92.5; in 1951 being 95.45; and in 1952 having risen to 97 percent of the total.

Another benefit from cooperation has been a start toward solving the problem of a settled abode for the nomads and an improvement in grazing technique. If pastoral people organize they can gradually overcome the problems connected with settled abode. For example, one mutual-aid team of nine shepherd households containing 30 people with 16 able to work, had 12 Mongolian yurts, 47 wooden carts, and 23 stockades fenced with woven willow strips. This team cared for 46 horses, 232 cows, and 915 sheep.

The accomplishments of mutual cooperation in recent years have due to adherence to a policy which has emphasized three points. First, there has been continual propaganda for cooperation based on the needs and habits of the nomads, emphasizing gradual development from simple to more complex organizations, specially stressing cooperation in protection from natural catastrophes and mutual help during lambing.

A second point emphasized has been that all cooperation must be voluntary, without any compulsion.

A third point has been the strengthening of the work of leaders in developing ties between the mutual-aid teams and the marketing and consumer cooperatives, the improvement in techniques of pasturing, and the rendering of timely material aid.

The development of cooperative work in Inner Mongolia has not been without difficulties, for many wrong emphases have been made and many unsolved problems still remain. For example, there have been wrong tendencies toward commandism, some localities giving orders to combine the flocks while other localities ordered their separation. On the other hand, some leaders have been afraid they might make a mistake and, as a result, allowed matters to drift without organized cooperation.

Two important problems have not yet been solved satisfactorily. The first problem is that of reconciling the policy of mutual benefit for the herd owner and the herdsman, and the policy of the cooperative organization. Many cadres are not clear as to the distinction between these two policies.

A second problem concerns the difference between agriculture and shepherding. In agriculture, the stages of cooperation are perfectly clear but pastoral conditions are different. Some problems must be solved gradually as real situations are experienced.

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In 1948, the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Area, basing its policy on the actual economic situation, decided that in the pastoral districts there should be "no struggle, no distribution of land, no sharp distinction as to classes." They promoted the establishment of mutual cooperative movements but in a careful manner, with due regard to the peculiar circumstances of nomadic life.

In 1950, the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Area loaned the destitute shepherds of the Hu-na League 7,000 ewes. One of the outstanding mutual-aid teams was organized by four households that had received this aid.

NEW WOOL MARKETED IN THE NORTHWEST -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 8 Sep 53

Wool marketing in the Northwest is at its peak, and the sheep have been sheared on most of the ranches. In Hsi-ning, Tsinghai, during the first part of August, a daily average of 5,000 catties of wool came to market. On 12 August, the amount increased to 9,000 catties. In Hsia-ho Hsien, Kansu Province, 20,000 catties of wool came on the market daily.

In Kuei-te Hsien, Tsinghai Province, from 1-6 August there was held a Commodity Exchange Fair during which period 190,000 catties of wool were marketed. There were 800 sellers, mostly Tibetan comrades.

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